

JPRS 80688

28 April 1982

Worldwide Report

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

No. 348



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

28 April 1982

WORLDWIDE REPORT
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

No. 348

CONTENTS

ASIA

AUSTRALIA

Pollution Report Sees Future Air Quality Gains in NSW (THE AUSTRALIAN, 16 Feb 82)	1
Soil Radiation in Resort Town Called No Health Risk (THE COURIER-MAIL, 13 Feb 82)	2
Homes Found With Radiation From Nearby Mine Tailings (Peter Terry; THE AUSTRALIAN, 23 Feb 82)	3
University Report Cites Danger From Ineradicable PCB's (Paul Lynch; THE AUSTRALIAN, 23 Feb 82)	4
Conservationists Slam Proposed Changes in NSW Law (Joseph Glascott; THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 27 Feb 82)	5
Chemical Pollution Task Force Proposed in Queensland (THE COURIER-MAIL, 1 Mar 82)	6
NSW Plans Toxic Waste Treatment Plant; Site Undetermined (Richard Eckersley; THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 25 Feb 82) ...	7
Inquiry Report Approves Limited Logging at Terania (THE AUSTRALIAN, 12 Feb 82; THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 13 Feb 82)	8
Details of Recommendations, by David Rowley Premier's Dissatisfaction	
Canberra Affirms Federal Government Has no Say on Franklin Dam (Simon Balderstone; THE AGE, 24 Feb 82)	10

Proposed Pilbara Dam Raises Difficult Erosion Problems (THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, 2 Mar 82)	11
Reef Park Authority's Prerogatives, Plans Described (Elizabeth Johnston; THE AUSTRALIAN, 19 Feb 82)	13
Factory Chemical Leak Poses Health, Explosion Threat (Peter Roberts, Roy Eccleston; THE AGE, 27 Feb 82)	15
Alcoa Portland Smelter Wants OK for High Emission Levels (Peter Roberts; THE AGE, 18 Feb 82)	18
Briefs	
Island Park	20
Noise, Air Pollution Study	20
New National Park	20
Auto Pollution Controls	20
BANGLADESH	
Offshore Islands Reported To Face Extinction (HOLIDAY, 21 Mar 82)	22
INDIA	
Universities To Help Preserve Ecosystems (THE HINDU, 28 Mar 82)	24
Briefs	
Air Pollution Seminar	26
Pollution in Ahmedabad	26
NORTH KOREA	
Briefs	
Reclamation of Tideland	27
VIETNAM	
Forest Destruction in Damaged Areas Viewed (QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, 10 Mar 82)	28
EAST EUROPE	
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	
Briefs	
Environmental Protection	29

LATIN AMERICA

BARBADOS

Beach Erosion Acceleration, Threatens Tourist Industry (Roy Morris; THE NATION, 11 Mar 82)	30
Editorial Lists, Supports Tasks of Conservation Group (Editorial; ADVOCATE-NEWS, 16 Mar 82)	31

MEXICO

Charges of Cancer-Causing Pollution in Torreon (EXCELSIOR, 16 Mar 82)	33
Effects of Volcano Diminishing (NOTIMEX, 13 Apr 82)	35

NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

Erosion Threatens Sinai Peninsula (THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE, 4 Apr 82)	37
---	----

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

BOTSWANA

To Cope With Drought Cattle Farmers Urged To Sell (DAILY NEWS, 18 Mar 82)	39
--	----

NAMIBIA

Water Shortage, Drought Conditions Cause Problems (THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER, 5 Apr 82)	40
Consumers Fail To Save Drought on Southern Farms	

NIGERIA

Benue Governor Requests Urgent Aid on Erosion (Mohammed Salau; THE NIGERIAN, 20 Mar 82)	42
Kano State Identifies 150 Factories as Polluters (Abdulhamid Babatunde; NEW NIGERIAN, 22 Mar 82).....	43

TANZANIA

'Tanzanians Reducing Environment's Life-Supporting Capacity' (DAILY NEWS, 29 Mar 82)	44
---	----

ZAMBIA

Kalomo Cattle Threatened With Starvation (DAILY MAIL, 1 Apr 82)	45
--	----

ZIMBABWE

Erosion Threatens Irrigation Schemes (THE HERALD, 29 Mar 82)	46
Matabeleland Forests Offered for Grazing (THE HERALD, 24 Mar 82)	47
Briefs Drought Predicted	48

WEST EUROPE

DENMARK/GREENLAND

Pollution From Cadmium Mining, Oil Causing Concern (Jens Dahl, Peter Bach; GRØNLANDSPOSTEN, 17 Mar 82)	49
---	----

TURKEY

Fish Production Rises Despite Growing Pollution (Sukran Ketenci; CUMHURİYET, 7 Feb 82)	53
Bacteria Said To Reduce Sulphur Content of Lignite (YENİ ADANA, 17 Feb 82)	56

POLLUTION REPORT SEES FUTURE AIR QUALITY GAINS IN NSW

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 16 Feb 82 p 2

[Text]

SYDNEY'S air will be cleaner in the 1990s than it was in the previous decade, and the massive industrial developments going ahead in NSW will not significantly damage the environment, the State Pollution Control Commission said in its annual report yesterday.

The commission, which pioneered the national lead-free petrol policy adopted last year, says Sydney has Australia's worst air pollution and NSW is the most heavily industrialised State.

The agency's promotion of lead-free fuel has given Australia a "national emission control policy which will benefit all large cities," the report says.

The commission, which has been fiercely attacked by the oil industry over its claims that lead-free petrol will be more economic than leaded petrol, says its new emission controls will increase the fuel economy of cars.

The report also serves notice on heavy industry in NSW that "vast improvements in the cleanliness of combustion"

can be achieved and are likely to save energy.

"The prospects for clean air in the major industrial centres of NSW to the end of the century are good, provided the community does not relax its vigilance or its efforts to maintain a high standard of air quality," the report says.

"Despite the high level of public support for air pollution controls, a very real temptation to relax these efforts can be perceived.

"Australians should beware of moves to repeal environmental protection legislation or cut expenditure in this area — this country has only reached the stage of laying the foundations, and any attempt at substantial cuts may very well end up destroying the foundations of air-pollution control in this country," the commission says.

Its report presents details of controversial studies that suggest the introduction of lead-free petrol will save fuel, cut maintenance costs and prolong the service life of cars.

The commission denies oil industry claims that the move will boost Australia's consumption of high-priced crude oil by between 5 and 15 per cent.

SOIL RADIATION IN RESORT TOWN CALLED NO HEALTH RISK

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 13 Feb 82 p 13

[Text]

SYDNEY. -- New South Wales Health Commission radiation experts have found that radiation contaminated soil at Byron Bay, is a matter for concern, but not a health risk.

According to tests by two scientists, the highest radiation levels were outside a schoolroom and on the football field at Byron Bay School.

The Public Health director Dr Alan Crawford said yesterday someone would have to be exposed to the contaminated soil for six hours a day for 200 days to reach a 500-millirem contamination level which is recognised internationally as the minimum required for genetic contamination.

The Health Minister, Mr Brereton, said the radiation levels need not cause alarm.

The radiation came from monozite waste dumped at Byron Bay by Associated Minerals between 1934 and 1975.

The report by two Health Commission experts recommends the Association of Beach Sand Mining Companies take responsibility for disposing of the contaminated soil.

The Health Commission investigation followed geiger-counter tests carried out by a Byron Bay resident, an Associated Minerals former employee.

Mr Brereton said the Association of Beach Sand Mining Companies president, Mr Bob Cameron, had given an undertaking last month that sand mining companies would remove and reprocess any wastes.

As yet the Association had taken no steps to do so.

Dr Crawford said it was well within the sand mining companies' capabilities to extract the radiation-contaminated monozite from the soil, instead of digging up hundreds of tons of soil.

While this could be a very costly venture, it would be good public relations for the companies, he said.

The two Health Commission radiation experts will return to Byron Bay in 10 days to recheck the contaminated soil.

Meanwhile, the commission has organised the removal of a portable classroom and the clearing of two areas of land as a result of their investigations.

CSO: 5000/7524

HOMES FOUND WITH RADIATION FROM NEARBY MINE TAILINGS

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 23 Feb 82 p 3

[Article by Peter Terry]

[Text]

ELEVEN families in a small country town 170km south of Perth are being told their homes are surrounded by unacceptably high levels of background radiation.

In some cases the radiation is almost four times the level considered safe.

It is being caused by layers of monazite, a natural residue found in sand mining tailings.

Over the years the tailings from nearby sand mines have been used as filling below and around the houses in the coastal town of Capel.

The West Australian Minister for Health, Mr Young, said yesterday the radiation level was not considered high enough for the families to be evacuated or for their homes to be demolished.

Standards set by the Radiological Council, a national body, say radiation levels inside a dwelling should not exceed 60 microrems an hour.

Tests conducted on the homes have shown some with readings as high as 223 microrems.

The tests were carried out at the request of the Capel Shire Council.

For at least 20 years the town has been using tailings drawn from three local sand mines for filling.

As well as the 11 homes, researchers found another 26 houses where back yards had readings as high as 700 microrems.

Verges along some town streets had readings of up to 400 microrems.

So far, no one has accepted responsibility for either the material or removing it.

None of the mining companies in the area claim to have records showing them responsible for dumping it.

According to the shire president, Mr W. Spurr, the mining companies used to offer the tailings to residents free.

Officials from the Department of Health, the Shire Council and the home owners are to meet soon to discuss the problem.

CSO: 5000/7525

UNIVERSITY REPORT CITES DANGER FROM INERADICABLE PCB'S

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 23 Feb 82 p 3

[Article by Paul Lynch]

[Text]

AUSTRALIA faces its greatest environmental threat in the next few years from an industrial chemical which cannot effectively be destroyed but is one of the most potentially-hazardous pollutants known, scientists warned yesterday.

The warning comes in a major university report on the pollution of Australia's marine and terrestrial environments by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), which until recently were used extensively in products ranging from kiss-proof lipstick and marine anti-fouling paints to transformer fluids and hydraulic oils.

The report, compiled by two senior microbiologists at Melbourne's LaTrobe University, warns that unless an effective method to dispose of PCB is developed, Australia faces a "potentially-dangerous environmental situation" during the 1980s.

Professor John Waid and Dr Barry Richardson claim in their report that polychlorinated biphenyl pollution - which is a global problem - has been found extensively in Australian animals and food. PCB impairs the liver function, causes nausea and headaches and skin conditions similar to acne. It is also suspected of being carcinogenic.

Until recently PCB was used in many industries. After government investigations in all States in the past 10 years imports have all but stopped but the compound is still in use, primarily in the mining industry.

The scientists single out PCB as our biggest pollution threat because it is insoluble in water but readily dissolves in fats - thus building up in living organisms, with the deposits magnified through the food chain.

The report says many people are exposed to PCB by eating contaminated fish, and warns that significant levels of the

pollutant have been found in meat, milk, eggs and in the atmosphere.

Cases of PCB poisoning have been recorded around the world in recent years, the most infamous being the poisoning of almost 2000 Japanese in 1968 who were hospitalised after eating contaminated rice oil.

The report says: "Although the use of PCBs in Australia has been dramatically reduced since 1975, the period of maximum PCB waste arising will most probably occur during the 1980s.

"The inadequacy of available methods to dispose of these substances and other chlorinated hydrocarbons may lead to a potentially-dangerous environmental situation in this country."

RISKS

The report says the greatest risk occurs because:

- Most PCB-containing equipment had, before 1972, no label attached describing its hazards.
- Most electrical equipment containing large amounts of PCB has life of up to 50 years, and when ultimately replaced, those involved may not be aware of the dangers.
- The recent practice of retro-filling PCB-containing transformers with substitute fluids may result in significant cross-contamination.

According to the study, the only really effective means to dispose of PCB without major threat to the environment is to burn it at high temperatures.

But Dr Richardson and Professor Waid warned that "complex and expensive methods" were required.

Australia now had no facilities for destroying the more than 7.5 million litres of waste, including PCB, by incineration, the report said.

CONSERVATIONISTS SLAM PROPOSED CHANGES IN NSW LAW

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 27 Feb 82 p 3

[Article by Joseph Glascott]

[Text] Reports that State Cabinet will be asked to weaken environmental laws and give the State wider powers on local zoning and developments drew strong protests yesterday.

The president of the Australian Conservation Foundation, Mr Murray Wilcox, QC, said: "It is almost unthinkable that the Government should entertain these proposals."

The chairman of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Mr Chris Pratten, criticised the secret nature of the changes were being proposed.

The Local Government Association sent telegrams to the Premier, Mr Wran, and the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Redford, asking for details of the proposed changes and protesting against the lack of consultation with councils.

The Herald disclosed yesterday that Cabinet was to be asked soon to approve changes to the State Planning and Environment Act.

Government ministers refused to comment on the reports yesterday saying a submission had not yet gone to Cabinet.

However, Government sources said the proposal was to give back to the Minister for Planning and Environment discretionary power over all zoning orders and development applications.

They said the minister had this power under the old Local Government Act through section 124 (v).

Under the new State Planning and Environment Act introduced in 1979, the Government retained power over matters of State and regional significance, but councils were given power over matters of local concern.

Councils in some cases had used these powers to delay and frustrate important developments, including State Government projects.

The sources gave as examples the redevelopment plans for the Tooheys brewery site in Elizabeth Street and the application for extension of the Sebel Townhouse hotel in Kings Cross.

In these cases the Government has acted to overcome council delays by taking over the development applications on the grounds of State and regional significance.

Another case of conflict was the North Sydney Technical College site opposite North Sydney station.

By objecting to zoning changes, North Sydney Council had held up Government plans to redevelop the site, a project which would be an important income earner for the State, the sources said.

However, conservationists said yesterday that they believed the proposals to be submitted to Cabinet went further than changes affecting councils.

The Conservation Foundation and the Conservation Council said Government agencies were believed to be pressing for amend-

ments to the environmental legislation to allow the minister to bypass the Act.

This would relieve the developer, including the Government agencies such as the Forestry Commission and the Water Resources Commission, from the duty to prepare environmental impact statements.

It would prevent public inquiry into their projects.

Mr Wilcox said: "It was the Labor Party which pioneered Federal environmental legislation and the Wran Labor Government which enacted the best State environmental laws in the country."

"The reported amendments would emasculate the Act — making it bear heavily on ordinary citizens, but exempting from scrutiny Government agencies and big developers. The powers of councils would be drastically reduced."

"Our legislation would be the most authoritarian in the country — worse even than that of Queensland."

CHEMICAL POLLUTION TASK FORCE PROPOSED IN QUEENSLAND

Brisbane: THE COURIER-MAIL in English 1 Mar 82 p 13

(cont)

A team of scientific troubleshooters is to investigate the chemical pollution of the Queensland environment.

A joint submission proposing the establishment of a chemical investigation team will be presented to Cabinet today by the Premier, Mr Bob DeBusk, and the Health Minister, Mr Allan.

The proposal follows concern over the state's present inadequate safeguards against the rapid diversification of industrial chemicals through new technology.

It says that the team would centralise the technology and make it available to meet potential pollution hazards.

The team of chemical and environmental scientists would operate from within the health Department, existing chemical laboratories.

The team's responsibility would be to maintain a safe environment by controlling the production and transport of chemicals.

The team would also investigate the environmental impact of any new proposed industrial development involving chemicals, including the shale-to-oil project.

All types of "new and accepted" chemicals would be progressively compared through a system and classification according to potential hazard.

It is expected the team would co-operate and liaise with government environmental laboratories.

The team was first proposed by the Co-ordinator - General's Department, which is responsible for environmental planning.

The state's existing laboratory facilities have been found to be ill-equipped and under-staffed in the face of new chemical technology.

NSW PLANS TOXIC WASTE TREATMENT PLANT; SITE UNDETERMINED

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 25 Feb 82 p 3

[Article by Richard Eckersley]

[Text] The NSW Government will announce soon details of a \$10 million treatment plant for destroying toxic and other industrial wastes, but it will not say yet where in Sydney the plant is likely to be built.

A spokesman for the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Bedford, said yesterday that the Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority had looked at five sites in the metropolitan area. "Preferred sites" had been identified and negotiations were under way with local authorities he said.

The plant which will take four years to build, will handle all liquid industrial wastes.

It will include physical and chemical treatment to neutralise some wastes while others will be destroyed in an incinerator capable of temperatures of more than 1,000 degrees Celsius.

At present toxic chemicals are stored by the companies that use or produce them under a licensing arrangement with the authority. About 65 million litres a year of other liquid wastes are dumped at a land-fill site at Castlereagh.

This dump will close when the new plant goes into operation.

The proposed plant poses several problems, according to an Australian authority on PCB's, a major group of toxic chemicals.

Professor John Waid, professor of microbiology at La Trobe University in Melbourne, said the wastes had to be transported and stored safely.

The chemicals would have to be identified so explosives were not tipped into the incinerator.

Authorities would have to ensure complete combustion of the chemicals, he said.

"If these plants are working with full efficiency, the end products are pretty harmless", he said. But incomplete combustion of PCBs, for example, could produce other chemicals dioxins, which were much more toxic.

PCBs polychlorinated biphenyls have been used since 1929 in products such as electrical equipment, anti fouling paints and lipstick.

They have become one of the most widespread global pollutants and are potentially hazardous to man and other animals. They may be linked to cancer and can cause skin, neurological and respiratory disorders.

Professor Waid and another scientist, Mr B. J. Richardson, of the Victorian Ministry of Conservation, warned in a recent paper that evidence suggested PCBs were polluting land and water near major Australian cities through leaching, leaking and incomplete incineration of waste.

Professor Waid says Victoria has about 30,000 litres of waste containing PCBs and he expects this waste to accumulate at a rate of 20,000 litres a year over the next ten years. The NSW situation, if anything, would be worse.

Professor Waid said any residents near the proposed plant site would be justified in being concerned.

"I think they should be concerned and they should be told exactly what's in the deal. I think it is one of those cases where there should be no censorship on information"

The director of the Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority, Mr Richard Conolly, said experts had examined the proposal and told him the plant would not pose an environmental threat.

Environmental impact statements would be available later for public inspection.

The plant would be the first of its kind in Australia, and would be used to dispose of toxic wastes produced in NSW.

"Mr Bedford has said NSW will not be a dumping ground for wastes produced elsewhere in Australia," the spokesman for the minister said.

Mr Bedford was concerned about the potential hazard in transporting the waste and it was the NSW Government which was paying for the plant he said.

INQUIRY REPORT APPROVES LIMITED LOGGING AT TERANIA

Details of Recommendations

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 12 Feb 82 p 3

[Article by David Rowley]

[Text]

A MILLION-dollar inquiry into proposals for logging at Terania Creek in northern NSW has recommended that logging should go ahead — but on a limited basis.

The 375-page report of the inquiry, headed by Mr Justice Isaacs, was tabled in the NSW Parliament yesterday.

The report recommends that no more than 6 per cent of the current unlogged area at the Terania Creek Basin be logged and also that no natural rainforest trees be included.

Mr Justice Isaacs says in his report that the proposed logging is relatively limited and involves only selective logging, not clear felling.

Depending on the weather, the operation would take between three and five months and no logging should be allowed for another 25 years.

Mr Isaacs recommends that after the logging, the Forestry Commission should continue co-operating with the Australian Museum, National Herbarium and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in carrying out research and impact studies on the Terania Creek area, its flora and fauna.

Booyong and coachwood-crab apple trees should be excluded from logging indefinitely, the report says, and only the brush box and blackbutt should be logged.

Logging should be carried

out with "sound silvicultural procedures and standards" to protect the forest against erosion.

The report also proposes that flooded gum trees be planted where necessary in the areas to be logged.

"The number of trees proposed to be taken is small and is described by counsel for the conservationists as insignificant," the report says.

"Originally it was calculated that approximately 1400 brush box trees out of a total of at least 1 million of all the trees in the basin were to be taken. This has been revised and reduced to approximately 800 trees."

The report says only five "relatively small" areas are to be logged, representing only a small cutback of the rainforest.

"This inquiry has been much wider, fuller and more complete than any environmental impact study and has been concerned with disputed issues of fact and opinion."

"Every conceivable objection or ground of injury to the environment has been raised and fully investigated," it says.

The report says that there would be severe hardship for the timber industry if logging at Terania Creek is prohibited. The industry has already suffered substantial injury from reduced quotas.

Any further reduction would result in scaling down of the local timber industry, leading to loss of business confidence and investment incentive, the report says.

Premier's Dissatisfaction

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 13 Feb 82 p 5

[Text]

The Isaacs Report on Terania Creek has not satisfied the Premier, Mr Wran, because it does not provide a complete solution to the problem of whether rainforest should be logged.

Mr Wran's reaction to the report yesterday was the first from the Government since it was tabled in Parliament on Thursday.

Mr Wran said yesterday that the Government would have to "bite the bullet . . . in the not-too-distant future" by deciding whether rainforests generally should be logged and, if so, to what extent.

The Cabinet committee chaired by him would draw on the report's recommendations in working out a complete rainforest logging policy, he said.

He would have preferred Terania Creek to have been the solution to the whole rainforest question, he said. But he added: "Regrettably, the report does not solve it."

The report was prepared by Mr Simon Isaacs, QC, a retired Supreme Court judge.

Mr Wran said that Mr Isaacs had been asked to widen his inquiry to include all rainforest logging but that he (Mr Isaacs) had decided to limit his inquiry purely to Terania Creek.

The report recommends that logging should go ahead at Terania Creek under conditions designed to protect the environment and Aboriginal sacred sites.

It says the evidence is overwhelming that logging would cause no significant erosion of soil or turbidity in the local streams.

And, in view of high unemployment along the North Coast, it says considerable weight should be given to projects which would increase work opportunities.

The Leader of the National Country Party, Mr Punch, said yesterday that the Government should approve the immediate resumption of selected logging at Terania Creek.

"Now that the \$1 million Isaacs report says what we all knew 18 months ago, Cabinet should allow some confidence to return to the timber industry by implementing

the recommendations," he said.

"This time and money-wasting inquiry was put on by the Government so it could avoid having to make a decision which would upset the extreme fringe of the environmentalist lobby groups.

"The Wran Government has shown how weak it is in the face of minority group pressure, and the fear now is that it will order expensive, time-delaying inquiries every time somebody wants to cut down a tree or mow his lawn.

"The timber industry is a significant contributor to the State's workforce and economy and should be encouraged to develop by the Government.

"Quite the contrary has occurred under this Government, which traditionally pays more heed to trendies and extremists than to honest, hard-working groups of people in the country."

Joseph Glascott, Environment Writer, reports:

Conservationists said yesterday that the Terania Creek inquiry report had been superseded by the State Government's general review of rain forest logging policies.

The executive director of the National Parks Association, Mr Peter Prineas, said the report was no longer relevant.

The report failed to meet the Government's standards for environmental impact statements, he said.

"I believe the Isaacs report can be consigned to the scrap heap," he said.

However, the executive director of Associated Country Sawmillers, Mr Keith Jordan, said the report vindicated the industry's stand that logging operations did no long-term ecological damage to forests.

"The report refutes a host of claims by environmentalists on matters such as definition of rainforest, damage caused by logging, the effects on wildlife and effects on streams," he said.

"This comprehensive document which covers in far greater detail than a normal environmental impact statement the effects of logging, clearly shows that the industry is acting in the long-term interests of the whole community.

CANBERRA AFFIRMS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO SAY ON FRANKLIN DAM

Melbourne THE AGE in English 24 Feb 82 p 5

[Article by Simon Balderstone]

[Cont] CANBERRA. — The Federal Government appears to have shed any responsibility for the proposed flooding of the Franklin River in South-West Tasmania.

In an answer in Parliament yesterday, the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, made it clear that his Government considered the dam question to be the responsibility of the Tasmanian Government. "That responsibility cannot be transferred merely because a State Government's decision does not suit some people," he said.

Mr Fraser's comments sit uneasily with the national estate listing of South-West Tasmania and the official nomination of the area by the Federal Government for the world heritage list. The national estate listing means that Federal Ministers can take no action which would adversely affect the region unless there is no feasible alternative.

The Opposition spokesman on environment and conservation, Mr West, said yesterday there were feasible alternatives, such as a thermal power station or energy conservation.

The Prime Minister had earlier been asked if the Commonwealth had the power to veto the dam scheme through the Loan Council and if such action was contemplated. Mr Fraser drew the distinction between normal loan money available to States and infrastructure proposals, and said the latter were frozen some time ago, and it was most unlikely there would be any new approval for any project.

He said that Mr Fraser was ignoring a clear Federal responsibility by "washing his hands" of the matter and refusing to set up an inquiry to explore alternatives such as thermal stations, or at least waiting until the Senate select committee into South-West Tasmania had reported, before considering approval for loan funds.

"I also was advised earlier that the funds required for that approval on the Franklin were, in fact, smaller on a current cost basis than those required for an earlier scheme on the Gordon, which was funded out of the normal loan council borrowing programme," he said.

Mr Fraser said that normal programmes of the States were matters for which the States must carry responsibility, and Tasmania clearly had responsibility for this matter. "Why else would the State Government have held a referendum on the matter?" he said. "Whatever decisions the State Government makes, I believe they need to carry on their own account, irrespective of whether those decisions are good or bad. It is the State Government that needs to be responsible for them."

Mr West said that for the Gordon-below-Franklin scheme to proceed without infrastructure funds, future power charges would need to be increased and general purpose loan funds would be diverted from areas such as housing and education.

CSO: 5000/7526

PROPOSED PILBARA DAM RAISES DIFFICULT EROSION PROBLEMS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 2 Mar 82 p 16

[Text] Erosion control will be a problem at the proposed Harding dam project in the Pilbara, according to a report released yesterday.

The Government announced in May last year that it intended to build the \$50 million dam on the Harding River as part of the West Pilbara water supply.

It said that the dam, 23kms south of Roebourne, would cost less than other options and would have the least social impact.

An environmental review and management programme for the project released yesterday said that erosion control within the area of fluctuating shorelines was a complex problem and was not easily solved.

The area of land below toe-water level and some below lower-water level would be subject to water and wind erosion.

FACTORS

The intensity of erosion would depend on many factors, including weather conditions.

That intensity could not be determined yet beyond documenting soil erodibility ratings.

The ERMP report said that a soil conservation specialist would inspect the foreshore area after the dam had filled in order to assess the effect of wave action on soil loss.

As the dam water level fluctuated, inspections of the exposed areas would be made and problems identified.

Inspections would be made annually before each wet season. Where necessary, control measures would be introduced to minimise soil movement into the reservoir.

The dam is expected to be built by December 1984.

GOVT VIEW

The Minister for Water Resources, Mr Mensaros, said yesterday that the dam was essential to the continuing development of the Pilbara region.

It would secure water supplies for the region into the next century and would ensure that the draw on the Millstream aquifer would be lessened.

The dam, to be operated with the aquifer, would increase the total annual capacity for the scheme to 28 million kilolitres a year.

Mr Mensaros said that water supplies from the existing Millstream aquifer could not be increased without significant degradation of the Millstream ecosystem.

Because of the environmental importance of the area, such degradation was unacceptable.

The Department of Conservation and the Environment would receive public submissions on the environmental review and management programme till April 27.

DESTRUCTION

The ERMP said that the major impact of the dam would be the destruction of nine square kilometres of vegetation and terrestrial fauna habitats below the full-supply level.

While such an occurrence was normal with the development of reservoirs, the destruction of vegetation was especially important when the water level would not remain constant. This was the case with the proposed dam.

The dam was expected to be at or close to full storage about once every three to five years.

The exposed ground surface would be subject to accelerated soil erosion.

There was also a potential dust problem.

The ERMP—part of studies by the Public Works Department—said

that local Aboriginal leaders had no objection to the dam.

A ritual site below the dam had been fenced to protect it from damage.

Water could periodically inundate many archaeological sites, but a programme of documentation, salvage and protection would be implemented to minimise the potential loss of these resources.

Water would flood much of the productive grazing land on Cooya Pooya station, which would cease to be a viable lease after the dam was built.

Most of the station would become an integrated reserve. The north west corner might be added to an existing pastoral lease.

The ERMP said that the proposed dam would create more favourable conditions for the introduction of an exotic disease and the spread of endemic diseases.

A ban on recreational activity on the reservoir would avert the risk of some potential diseases.

But two mosquito-borne diseases already widespread in the Pilbara were a worry.

Mosquito sampling and other surveys were being done in the area near the proposed dam.

10/11/88

REEF PARK AUTHORITY'S PREROGATIVES, PLANS DESCRIBED

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 19 Feb 82 p 13

[Article by Elizabeth Johnston]

[Text]

THERE are about 30 wrecks on the Great Barrier Reef which are described as historically important. The ship of State-Commonwealth relations is still out there foundering.

What happens between Queensland and the Commonwealth will ultimately be much more important, historically and culturally, than the wrecks among the coral reefs.

The Commonwealth has been moving slowly, through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, to declare sections of the reef a marine park.

Nearly seven years after the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act was passed, only 24 per cent of the reef has been declared.

This is the Capricornia section at the southern end of the reef, extending from Lady Elliott Island in the south to the Karama Bank in the north, and taking in the Bunker and Capricorn group of islands.

Best known of these is Heron Island, a popular resort, particularly with divers.

Declaration means that the Marine Park Authority can control any number of activities from fishing to swimming or even picking up a shell off the shore.

It can prohibit any activities it considers may pollute the water in a way which would harm animals or plants.

It even controls the air space to a height of 915 metres.

The southern section was chosen for declaration first because of its accessibility to a large number of coastal centres, particularly the boom growth town of Gladstone, where increased tourism and local use of the reef is likely to continue.

Declaration of the first section appears to have been successful, with no complaints from fishermen, tourists or businessmen, and divers reporting a big increase in fish living close to island shores.

Although the Capricornia section has been declared since late 1979 the Marine Park Authority and its powers are still suspect in Queensland at political level.

Plans revealed in November to declare the northern section off Cairns led to a storm of protest, much of it led by the Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen.

There was a mixture of State rights emotions and misleading claims as to the possible loss of freedom of citizens boating on, swimming in and flying over the reef.

Submissions on proposals to declare the northern section close on April 2 and the authority is expecting 500 to 600 individuals and organisations to offer their advice about how the reef should be managed.

A Cairns businessman, Mr Gordon McKaige, has been appointed chairman of a task force representing charter boat and tourist operators in north Queensland who will lodge a submission.

Mr McKaige, who is also a member of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee, says the pattern emerging from his meetings with operators is one of a tremendous concern for the welfare of the reef.

DOUBTS

"They are businessmen and they realise their businesses rise or fall on the conditions on the reef," he said.

"They are going to do everything they can to preserve it."

While supporting the concept, the operators have doubts about some specific proposals which could involve seasonal closure of some islands and cays close inshore.

They will suggest some sort of modified use in certain seasons, with visitors being allowed ashore only under the supervision of a ranger.

Their submission is likely to point out to the authority the dangers of forcing tourists to other destinations.

They will say that if inshore islands are to be closed, the authority should first consider the problems of operators having to make longer trips to

places with poor anchorage in waters which might be dangerous in some weather condition.

Michaelmas Cay off Cairns is one of the most successful bird sanctuaries in the world and a popular destination with West German tourists in particular.

Mr McKaige says if the cay was closed during the nesting season this would coincide with the period when many tourists arrive.

They would be unable to visit it and one of the big tourist attractions to the region would be lost.

By pointing out these sort of factors the operators hope to temper scientific knowledge with a realistic assessment of the effects closures and restrictions would have on users of the reef.

Once submissions have been received the authority will begin to work on a draft zoning plan which will probably be released in October or November for public comment.

Early next year the plan would go to Federal Parliament for consideration.

It will be a delicate operation and as usual in Queensland Commonwealth relations issues are likely to be clouded by political considerations.

Once that confrontation is over the authority can be expected to move to declare the central section of the reef, roughly from Cairns south to Mackay.

That area includes the Whitsunday Passage, a region being heavily promoted to tourists both internationally and within Australia.

Big businesses, including Ansett and P & O, are pouring millions into the region and some of Queensland's toughest businessmen and lobbyists are developing island resorts.

When the battle lines are drawn over the central sector, this particular Coral Sea battle is going to involve some very big guns.

CSO: 5000/7525

FACTORY CHEMICAL LEAK POSES HEALTH, EXPLOSION THREAT

Melbourne THE AGE in English 27 Feb 82 pp 1, 5

[Article by Peter Roberts and Roy Eccleston]

[Text] Altona faced the threat of a "devastating" explosion for more than five hours on Thursday because of the chemical leak at a factory, fire brigade officials said yesterday.

On Thursday, B. F. Goodrich Chemical Limited stated that "there was no danger to the general community from the leak".

Metropolitan Fire Brigade officials said yesterday that for more than five hours there was a threat of a big explosion. Melbourne scientists predicted that factory workers and emergency workers could face a higher incidence of cancers because of the incident.

Superintendent Lindsay Edis, who co-ordinated MFB vehicles during the emergency, said yesterday that the escape of vinyl chloride gas had been recognised immediately as an extremely hazardous situation.

"There could easily have been an explosion with devastating results," Mr Edis said. "It certainly would have flattened the (Goodrich) plant, and probably the two adjoining ones as well."

The 600-tonne storage tank contained compressed vinyl chloride, the raw material for making PVC plastic, when three fitters removed a corroded outlet pipe about 2.45 pm. The single "fail-safe" valve on the outlet suddenly opened and vinyl chloride poured out, vaporising as soon as it came into contact with the air.

According to the Environment Protection Authority, there have been at least 17 releases of vinyl chloride from the plant in five years.

Mr Ken Stone, the secretary of the Trades Hall Council, said the incident showed the need for preventive consultation with workers. He claimed shop stewards had warned Goodrich of the need for a double valve system. Such a system would have prevented the accident.

He said people fighting the leak on Thursday had feared a repetition of an incident involving leaking vinyl chloride in Mexico in 1975. Then leaking gas ignited in a gas vapor explosion, killing 50 people.

"The three men standing around last night with their fingers crossed that the Goodrich plant would not go up," Mr Stone said. "If it had, the resultant shock wave could have set off most of the petrol dumps around Altona."

The Goodrich company's first statement after the leak on Thursday said: "There is no danger to the general community from the leak, other than that of fire immediately around the storage unit."

Later, at 9.15 pm, when the leak had been plugged, Goodrich Chemical's managing director, Mr John Herbig, said: "At no time was there a risk to the surrounding community except that of fire in the immediate vicinity of the tank."

Yesterday, Mr Norman Gamble, Goodrich's technical control group manager, agreed that an explosion at the tank had always been possible. However, this had been reduced by spraying water in the atmosphere in the area.

Mr Gamble could not say whether the three men working on the corroded pipe at the time of the leak had been wearing breathing apparatus.

All firemen who approached the tank wore protective clothing and breathed from air tanks. Three unprotected firemen standing 200 metres downwind later complained of dizziness and have been examined by the MFB doctor. Mr Gamble said the three fitters had not been medically examined.

Mr Gamble said no vinyl chloride monitoring devices were operating when the leak occurred because the plant had been closed for maintenance. It was not possible to say how high gas concentrations were in the first few minutes when men were being exposed. However, later measurements showed a peak level of "about 100 parts per million". Tests in residential areas nearby did not exceed two ppm.

Federal health authorities have set a level of 10 ppm for exposure in industrial situations. In Victoria, the State's Environment Protection Authority has set an objective for the general air environment of less than .03 ppm.

According to Dr Don MacPhee, a senior lecturer in microbial genetics at La Trobe University, anyone who breathed any of the gas no matter how diluted, would face an increased risk of cancer in future. He said vinyl chloride was one of the most potent carcinogens (cancer-causing substances) known.

Its potency first came to light in 1970 when evidence was given at a Texas medical conference that vinyl chloride produced tumors in rats. In 1974 it was noticed that workers in the vinyl chloride industry suffered a high incidence of a rare tumor of the liver.

Since then it has been linked to genetic damage causing spontaneous abortions and possible deformity in children, lung cancer, anaemia and acro-osteolysis, a clubbing of the ends of the fingers.

Dr MacPhee who has been appointed scientific adviser to the House of Representatives standing committee on the environment, which is inquiring into hazardous chemicals, said a single exposure to a carcinogen could initiate a cancer. It may then take 15 to 20 years to show up.

Dr Jill Blunt, who lectures on vinyl chloride as part of a Deakin University course on occupational health, agreed that people exposed to the gas would face a higher than normal cancer risk.

Mr Gamble challenged Dr MacPhee and Dr Blunt's statements, saying the incident was "not at all dangerous from the point of view of cancer." He said he had seen no evidence to support their statements.

"The immediate danger ... is that it has an anaesthetic effect," Mr Gamble said. "The cancers appear to be the result of exposure to high concentrations over many, many years."

CSO: 5000/7526

ALCOA PORTLAND SMELTER WANTS OK FOR HIGH EMISSION LEVELS

Melbourne THE AGE in English 18 Feb 82 p 13

[Article by Peter Roberts]

[Text] Alcoa of Australia says it could have further reduced fluoride emissions from the Portland smelter now being built.

A company spokesman Mr David Butcher said yesterday that Alcoa was not proposing to remove or "scrub" fluorides from the air in a part of the smelter known as the anode baking plant--the area in which new electrodes are produced for the aluminium smelting process.

"We have always said we are prepared to retrofit the equipment if it proves necessary," Mr Butcher said. "But our mathematical modelling has shown us that the effects on the receiving environment are exactly the same with or without anode bake scrubbing."

Alcoa is proposing that its anode bake section should be allowed to emit up to 0.3 kilograms of fluoride per tonne of aluminium produced at the smelter. This is six times the level of 0.05 kg-tonne the company agrees would be emitted from a plant equipped with anode bake scrubbers to clean the air.

This admission would appear to contradict the long-standing commitment by Alcoa and the Victorian Government to insist on the "best available technology" for controlling pollutants from Portland.

Reaffirmed

This commitment was reaffirmed as recently as 23 December last year in a letter to the Environment Protection Authority from Alcoa's parent company, the Aluminium Company of America. The letter concluded: "Best available control technology has been proposed by Alcoa of Australia for incorporation into Phase 1 of the Portland smelter project."

Mr Butcher said that Alcoa was using the technology most appropriate for local conditions at Portland. These measures would control pollution to the degree where further controls would not result in high air quality around the smelter. He said it was irrelevant to talk about further reducing emissions

in this case. "We are using the best available technology under our definition. We are achieving the minimum environmental effect."

The Environment Protection Authority is expected to issue Portland within two weeks.

In its initial proposal for Portland in January, 1980, Alcoa proposed that the smelter be licenced to emit a maximum of 1.38 kg/tonne. This was made up of 1.11 from the main smelting potline, and .27 from the anode bake.

In its supplementary environment effects statement, issued in September that year, the figures had changed to 1.0 kg/tonne from the potline and .2 from the anode bake--a total of 1.2 for the smelter as a whole.

Improving pollution control technology was responsible for this drop in potline emissions and further reductions in the Alcoa application for an EPA discharge licence on 14 August 1981. The company proposed a potline emission of only .68 kg/tonne but a higher anode emission of .3. The smelter total was then to be .98.

The EPA then issued its preliminary determination for the Portland licence. The authority accepted Alcoa's own suggestion of .68 for potline emissions, but insisted on anode bake scrubbers releasing a maximum of .05. Total emissions were to be .73 kg/tonne.

CSO: 5000/7525

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

ISLAND PARK--State Cabinet yesterday decided North West Island, off the central Queensland coast, should not be developed as a tourist resort but would become a National Parks camping area. Cabinet accepted a submission from the National Parks Minister, Mr Elliott, that the 100 ha island in the Capricorn Group should not be leased for any purpose. In 1975, a State Government committee recommended the establishment of a tourist resort on North West Island, but a call for development tenders received no response. The shipping line P and O Australia last month approached the State Government for a lease to establish a camping area on the island. P and O operates the tourist resort on nearby Heron Island and sought access to North West as an annexe to the resort. Following rumors of P and O's intentions, a "Save North West Island" delegation was formed, which included the Gladstone Mayor, Alderman Col Brown. Mr Elliott said yesterday the National Parks and Wildlife Service would provide the island with camping facilities and a manager during peak holiday periods. "North West Island will remain a camping area by the permit system and will be open to all," he said. Mr Elliott said private development on North West Island would bring island users into conflict because access to the island was largely restricted to one corner. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 24 Feb 82 p 3]

NOISE, AIR POLLUTION STUDY--A joint Federal and State Government committee will be set up to investigate air pollution and noise from motor vehicles. This was decided yesterday by the Transport Advisory Council, comprising ministers from the governments, in Burnie, Tasmania. The ministers decided to amalgamate the motor transport group of the Transport Council with another of its arms, the Australian Environmental Council, to form the Advisory Committee on Vehicle Emissions and Noise. The Queensland Minister for Transport, Mr Lane, said last night: "We will now be able to resolve the running problem of just who is responsible for advice and action on emissions and noise." [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 1 Mar 82 p 3]

NEW NATIONAL PARK--A new national park is being created in Kununurra's Hidden Valley. The Minister for Conservation and the Environment, Mr Masters, said recently that an area of 2350 hectares including Hidden Valley would be set aside as an A-class reserve. Reservation of the area was recommended by the Environmental Protection Authority in its report to the State Government on the System 7 study which covered most of the Kimberley. "Hidden Valley is an extremely popular tourist destination and is an important recreational attraction in Kununurra," Mr Masters said. "The valley also contains a number of important Aboriginal sites. "For this reason, the Government has agreed that a local rigine be employed and trained as ranger to care for the reserve on behalf of the National Parks Authority." [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 11 Feb 82 (News of the North) p 3]

AUTO POLLUTION CONTROLS--Sydney--Vehicle builders face harsh penalties this year unless they improve vehicle pollution controls on new models. The scientific officer with the NSW State Pollution Control Commission, Mr Sandy Thomas, said yesterday that regulations would soon be introduced to give the commission powers to recall vehicles or prohibit the registration of cars that did not meet pollution control standards. "Several vehicle models could have been refused registration last year if the new regulations, currently being drafted, had applied," Mr Thomas said. He said there was very poor emission control in factories and on dealers' floors and added that the World Health Organisation's recommended levels of carbon monoxide--one of the main exhaust gases--was exceeded in Sydney's central business district most days of the year. Mr Thomas said this was almost entirely due to motor vehicle exhaust emissions. The proposed regulations are the result of tests conducted last year that showed many vehicles by leading manufacturers emitted exhaust fumes that exceeded the limits of the Clean Air Act. The commission can only act on vehicles on an individual basis. The commission's 1981 annual report said that 55 per cent of vehicles tested between January and June last year failed the pollution requirements. The report said that only one of eight manufacturers tested provided satisfactory controls on their cars, and that only eight of 23 GMH cars passed. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 22 Feb 82 p 5]

CSO: 5000/7525

OFFSHORE ISLANDS REPORTED TO FACE EXTINCTION

Dacca HOLIDAY in English 21 Mar 82 p 3

[Text]

Because of the slow progress in the implementation of the projects under the Water Development Board (WDB) for stopping erosions of the Sandwip, Hatia, Kutubdia, Maheshkhali and other islands in the eastern delta about one lakh people have become homeless while about three lakh people of the same region have been facing similar threat.

The WDB took a 12-crore taka program for land reclamation and estuary control in the entire eastern delta region but the a big chunk of that amount has allegedly been misappropriated by the local development authorities and some amount has been wasted on the paper works, it is learnt.

More than 300 square miles area of Sandwip and a large portion of Hatia, Kutubdia and Noakhali char areas have already been eroded by the rivers but still the WDB seems to be unconcerned about the grave situation. If the present pace of erosion continues according to the geologists, the off-shore island areas of the Bay of Bengal would be extinct rendering a big population homeless.

To protect the char areas of the Bay of Bengal particularly of the eastern delta region, the WDB in 1975 initiated a giant survey. Accordingly, a foreign team conducted a survey and investigation and they recommended for an immediate measure to start an estuary control and land reclamation project to check erosion and for reclaiming the lands.

Though the survey was completed in 1976 the Water Development Board made some unnecessary delay in starting and implementing the project. They also tried to find an alternative solution and engaged three of their ships for another survey which have been operating there for last few years and so far no positive result has been yielded.

The WDB also setup a number of offices at Noakhali, Chittagong and other areas and three foreign experts were appointed there on a long-term contract.

It is learnt that about 2.4 billion tons of sediment are carried each year by the tidal waves and these sediments are factors to regulate and control the tidal flow of

the rivers. The velocity of the current depend on the depth of the water in the rivers and whenever the stocks of sediments are augmented, the current hits the off-shore areas of the rivers and thus erosion, is caused.

In 1979-80 the WDB decided to construct 109 miles dams in the country out of which only 89 miles could be set up. A number of important dams and embankments in the south-east areas could not be implemented.

The following year only 14-mile dams were erected.

MEGHNA

The government also sanctioned one-crore-taka to regulate the flow of Meghna river. The hydrographic survey to cover 5000 square miles of eastern delta mouth and at the fall of Meghna to detect current velocity, direction of sediment, discharge of water and the tidal flow of the rivers had eaten up most of the money and the projects now require more money to take necessary action.

A recent survey jointly conducted by the foreign and the local experts at

the Sandwip, Hatia and Maheshkhan islands maintained that prevention of river erosions was the most important measure to control the flow and tide of the river Meghna. It also suggested the reclamamation of new islands to serve as a substantive source of

rehabilitating the people from the other over-populated areas of the country.

At the beginning of this year the government had drawn up a 100-crore taka master plan to protect Sandwip and Hatia islands from erosion. The project envisaged construction of

metal spars and dams along the northern belt of both the islands.

It was also planned to construct 22 miles of embankment in at Sandwip and 88 miles at Hatia. But the projects were stalled due to the negligence of the WDP, it is alleged.

CSO: 5000/7049

UNIVERSITIES TO HELP PRESERVE ECOSYSTEMS

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Mar 82 p 4

[Text] **T**HE coordinated action research projects for the Himalayan, the Ganga and the Western Ghats regions for which financial allocation has been announced by the Planning Commission marks a significant step: giving concrete shape to the concept of an active role for universities in national development.

For the past one decade the Planning Commission has been formulating programmes for development of hill areas but with little impact. Devastation of the watersheds in the Himalayas and Western Ghats eco-systems continues.

According to Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, member, Planning Commission, the design of human habitats on the hills as well as the kinds of land and livestock reform and management measures necessary for sustained development are yet to receive the scientific attention they deserve. It was against this background that he brought together the universities in these regions to improve the situation.

Framework for projects

The Ganga region has been chosen in addition to the two hill areas because of the river's relationship with the Himalayan eco-systems and with the lives of millions of people all along its route from Gangotri to Hooghly.

A conference of the vice-chancellors of these universities held by the Planning Commission recently finalised the framework of the projects to be taken up by these universities to arrest further damage to the natural resources and initiate the process of repairing the damage already done. Following this the Planning Commission announced the financial allocation for the next three years for these programmes.

In the case of the Himalayan region, 14 universities besides one voluntary institution will undertake the studies, which will cover land use pattern for different activities, water resources and their use, documentation of flora and fauna, mineral resources, demographic data, energy resources and their use, productivity patterns, environmental degradation patterns, sources of pollution and plan for eco-system enrichment activities.

For the purpose of these studies, the region has been divided into four parts: (A) The western covering Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh; (B) Central covering Uttar Pradesh; (C) Eastern covering Darjeeling district, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh; and (D) North-eastern covering the remaining north-eastern States.

Each of these universities will be the focal point for a network of learning processes with all relevant agencies so that it can probe into the problems of regional eco-development.

Based upon the survey, interdisciplinary coherent research groups of students and teachers will be formed. To ensure the effective functioning of the projects, universities will be given adequate financial autonomy. If for any reason the hill universities are unable to acquire the requisite autonomy, the setting up of new autonomous institutions is envisaged.

In the Ganga region, the thrust will be on controlling pollution of the river, harnessing the river for economic purposes, like agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry and promoting improved water transportation. Sixteen universities located along the river course will participate. The project also envisages preparation of flora and fauna charts from Buxar to Haldia and study of methods to conserve the fish species threatened by pollution.

In the Western Ghats region, the studies will cover socio-cultural and ethnic factors including compilation of folk songs and data of art crafts, music, etc., socio-economic factors that can help improve the quality of life, and ecological factors necessary to protect the soil, water flora and fauna of the hill region.

This region consists of about 150 taluks in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Goa. There are 15 universities there. Besides these universities, six national institutions located in these States are expected to participate in the project which will cover 12 broad areas of action research.

These areas include study of the arts, dialects, belief system, health and quality of life of tribals, socio-economic problems of plantation labour, impact of mechanised fisheries on traditional fishermen, study of man's interaction with forests, effects of mining activity

... impact of industries on the
... conservation of biological diversity
... genetic resources of wild relatives of
... plants and domesticated animals.

The universities will be encouraged to
evolve suitable educational and training pro-
grammes pertaining to the special problems
of Western Ghats and the West Coast and
sufficient academic credit will be given to
students working on these.

Dr. Swaminathan expects that these
projects will help generate genuine cooperative
action among departments within a university,
among universities and between faculty and
students. The faculty and student strength
of over one million in the universities in these
three regions is considered an asset both
for research and action. Based on the ex-
perience gained during the next three years,
these projects will be strengthened and de-
veloped further in the Seventh Plan.

CSO: 5000/7048

BRIEFS

AIR POLLUTION SEMINAR--New Delhi, 12 Mar (AFP)--Air pollution in the form of suspended particles of waste matters in urban India is two to five times greater than in advanced Western countries, an air pollution seminar has been told here. A paper presented at the seminar now in progress in the South Indian city of Bangalore, said India, with fewer automobiles than the United States, had the same level of urban pollution because cars here produced at least four times more carbon monoxide. Automobiles in India were rarely grounded and vehicles manufactured 20 to 30 years ago were still on the roads. The paper said India did not lag behind in the race for self-destruction and "our country men are among the world's champion garbage producers." The Indian air pollution act, introduced last year, was 10 years late said the paper, and had two faults--it failed to provide for coordination between air quality, water pollution and urban planning, and provided no incentives like tax rebates and financial credits for controlling air pollution. It was estimated that the incidence of chronic bronchitis in the Indian capital was 6 to 14 times higher than elsewhere in the country. The sulphur dioxide concentration in the atmosphere here would increase by 20 percent after the commission of a refinery nearby New Delhi, the paper warned. [Text] [BK150643 Hong Kong AFP in English 0752 GMT 1] Mar 82]

POLLUTION IN AHMEDABAD--Ahmedabad is the most polluted city in the country with maximum concentrations of the oxides of sulphur having an adverse affect on the health of practically entire population, Minister of State for Environment C P N Singh said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, reports PTL. Replying to questions, Mr Singh, however, said that he was not aware of any death due to air pollution in any part of the country. Mr Singh agreed with Mr V Gopalasamy (DMK) that pollution in Hyderabad and Bihar was higher due to dust. But Indian cities were generally free from concentrations of sulphur oxides, he added. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Mar 82 p 5]

CSO: 5000/7047

BRIEFS

RECLAMATION OF TIDELAND--Pyongyang, April 4--The North Pyongan provincial combined construction office for the reclamation of tideland on April 1 successfully carried out a blasting of 2.7 million tons of earth. With this blasting the office secured enough stones to reclaim 10,000 hectares of tideland this year. In February last, the office carried out a one-day blasting of 400,000 tons of earth to pile up the whole amount of stones at a place under the sea. [Text] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 0853 GMT - Apr 82 SK]

CS : 5000/2102

FOREST DESTRUCTION IN DAMAGED AREAS VIEWED

BK041640 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 10 Mar 82 p 1

[VNA report]

[Text] Before the liberation of the South, about 50 to 60 percent of the mangrove area in Ca Mau was destroyed by U.S.-puppet toxic chemicals. At present, these trees occupy only 60,000 hectares. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of the mangroves in U Minh were also devastated. Wanton destruction of other forests in the Mekong River Delta has continued in recent years. At present, only over 250,000 hectares in this region are covered with forests while another 8,500 hectares need reforestation. To prevent a situation in which forests are wantonly burned or destroyed and to quickly satisfy the need for ecological protection and the supply of timber and firewood to the people in the region, the Ministry of Forestry has delineated and determined the crop allocation for each type of soil, and introduced four methods of combining agriculture with forestry in various localities.

These involve shrimp breeding and fish farming in the area of the Sat forests; combining the cultivation of rice with the planting of mangrove; making the soil less alkaline by continuously planting mangrove, white eucalyptus and beefwood or other plants such as banana, sugarcane, manioc and pineapple; and raising bees in the mangrove forests.

By planting new forests and restoring and preserving old forests in accordance with the combined methods mentioned above, the provinces in the Mekong River Delta have been able to produce practical and comprehensive economic results. Some provinces such as Tien Giang, Hau Giang and Kien Giang have even set up test areas for combining agriculture with forestry in different forms, with the intention of gaining experience for the development of production under various forms during 1982.

Actively developing the Sat forests (including the planting of mangrove and mushrooms), localities with saline soil in the coastal area can play an effective role in retaining alluvium to form landfills along the coastline in order to improve the soil and preserve fresh water.

Minh Hai, Hau Giang and Kien Giang Provinces are adopting many effective measures to put an immediate end to the situation in which forests are wantonly burned and destroyed while guiding the peasants, state farms and army units in carrying out production in accordance with the plan formulated for each region. Meanwhile, other provinces with large forests are intensively delineating their forested land and agricultural land and, on that basis, providing close guidance for combined agro-forestry production, and resolutely preventing any attempt to destroy the forests and then leave the land uncultivated.

CSO: 5000/2102

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BRIEFS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION--At a press conference held in Bratislava on 1 April, P. Frolkovic, Slovak deputy minister of development and technology, provided information about a new concept of environmental protection in Slovakia in the Seventh 5-Year Plan. Frolkovic said, among other things, that in Slovakia there are seven "greatly affected regions," which are "overloaded with several types of harmful substances, exceeding the norms of permissible concentration." These regions are: Bratislava, Ziar Nad Hronom, Lower Orava, Kosice, Upper Nitra, Jelsava and Central Spis. [Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 2 Apr 82 p 2 AU]

CSO: 5000/2102

BEACH EROSION ACCELERATION, THREATENS TOURIST INDUSTRY

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 11 Mar 82 p 1

[Article by Roy Morris]

[Text]

THE Barbados tourist industry could find itself in serious trouble if the current problem of beach erosion is not arrested shortly. In addition, a number of hotels could find themselves advertising only sea and sun.

She was told to THE NATION yesterday by oceanographer and consultant with the Barbados Government, Jill Cambers, who said that based on the pattern of beach erosion which had been occurring since the late 1960s, in ten years the sea could have advanced by five or ten metres.

She made it quite clear that for a number of hotels, this would mean that the waves could be actually breaking on their buildings, and in other cases, others would have lost all or most of their gardens.

When questioned about the recent escalation of beach erosion at Sandy Lane, manager of the Parks and Beaches Commission, Don Grant, said that any emergency corrective measures on this beach would have to be undertaken by the Ministry of Housing and Lands, as this was an area of expertise. (Mr. Debsie Bradshaw, the minister, could not be contacted.)

Grant said that all along the

west and south coasts, erosion was having a very serious effect on the beach and pointed to the fact that 60 years ago there was much beach and many buildings to the west of the highway passing through Speightstown, while at present the sea came on the road when it was unusually high.

Ms. Cambers said that many people today talked of erosion occurring in cycles, but the fact that the beach at Rockley was created just about the same time as it was lost from Speightstown, did not give enough information over a long enough period of time to say anything concrete about that.

In terms of corrective measures, Ms. Cambers said that the Government could possibly locate a source of sand off-

shore and have this sand dredged from offshore and placed on the beach.

She, however, warned that this was a very expensive task which would have to be repeated every two or three years and as a result the cost would fall on the tourist industry, which might subtract from its development.

She cited another measure to be the erection of groynes offshore, but pointed out that this would have to be done on a large scale over a wide area.

Cambers said that at present the sand on Barbados' beaches normally travelled north to south and that if one particular property owner constructed a groyne, it would temporarily disturb that flow, cause a build up of sand to the north of the structure, and escalate erosion to the south. She described this as a very dangerous practice.

The consultant said that what was now becoming almost common place was for persons to put up structures on the beach which were very unsightly. That, she said, could be very detrimental to the tourist industry.

She said:

"Whatever is done will have to be very comprehensive and not piecemeal."

CNO: 5000/7523

EDITORIAL LISTS, SUPPORTS TASKS OF CONSERVATION GROUP

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 Mar 82 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

The merging of the Parks and Beaches Commission and the Caves Authority by Act of Parliament brings together as one functional entity two bodies that have done outstanding service in the tidying and preservation of the Barbados environment.

The two bodies have been combined as the National Conservation Commission because the functions of the two bodies were somewhat similar and it is felt that combining them would make for greater efficiency in their services.

The functions of the Commission are to:

- Conserve the natural beauty, topographic features, historic buildings, sites and monuments of Barbados;

- Remove from any beach, public park, public garden or from the access thereto, any derelict object;

- Control, maintain and develop the public parks, public gardens, beaches and caves of Barbados;

- Maintain public access to, and to provide a lifeguard service at such of the beaches of Barbados as it thinks fit;

- Secure the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices at and in the respect of the public parks, public gardens, beaches and caves in Barbados and such other sites, buildings or monuments of national interest as the Minister may designate;

- Maintain and assist in maintaining, to such extent as the Minister directs, existing and future beach facilities;

- Advise the Minister on (i) the construction of beach and ancillary recreational facilities; (ii) the control of the construction in any public park, public garden or on any beach of huts, booths, tents, sheds, stands, stalls, barn-houses, shops (whether fixed or moveable); (iii) the removal of coral from the ocean bed or any other thing the removal of which might cause the encroachment of the sea, and (iv) such other matters relating to the public parks, public gardens, beaches and caves of Barbados, including

matters pertaining to beach control and the protection of the sea-coast of Barbados from erosion or encroachment by the sea, as the Minister may refer to it for advice.

Advise the Minister generally on areas to be declared as caves under section 3 and sites, buildings or monuments of national interest designated by the Minister under this section:

Control, conserve and develop caves:

— Enter into written agreements with owners or occupiers of land for the right of access to and the right to control, conserve and develop any cave; and

Generally to carry out this Act, together with such other functions as may be conferred upon it by the Minister for the purposes of this Act or by any other enactment.

The Act referred to is the National Conservation Commission Act, 1982 which was dealt with in the House of Assembly last week.

The Parks and Beaches Commission has done exemplary work in cleaning up and beautifying the beaches and open air recreational areas of Barbados. It has transformed ugly, tangled, filthy areas into beautiful, clean, healthy picnic and recreational spots for both Barbadians and visitors alike.

The Caves Authority has been operating only a short time, but its handling of the newly opened, spectacular treasure of Harrison's Cave has been efficient.

It must be admitted that the Parks and Beaches Commission and the Caves Authority were established because the Barbadian economy depended heavily on the tourist trade and the state of the beaches and open space were detrimental to the enjoyment of visitors. But Barbadians have come to value the work of the commission and the transformation it has wrought in the open "breathing spaces" not only for the beauty and comfort but also because tourism plant and other development is diminishing the already limited open spaces.

The realisation that environmental preservation is vital to the very survival of Barbados and Barbadians, let alone its beauty and cleanliness should make this nation more appreciative of the efforts and importance of the National Conservation Commission. All Barbadians should become aware that they have a responsibility to assist in preserving the environment. This way the job of the Commission would be that much less problematical.

It is also to be hoped the merger into one body and the extension of services do not dilute the efficiency the separate entities exhibited so successfully, for it is a large responsibility with a great many things dependent upon it.

CHARGES OF CANCER-CAUSING POLLUTION IN TORREON

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Mar 82 p 7-D

[Text] Seventy thousand people in the eastern section of the city of Torreon are exposed to air pollution, which for the past 15 years has been caused by the metals processing plant, Mat Penoles, and the government of the state of Veracruz has urged the plants of Coatzacoalcos, Minatitlan and Poza Rica to install anti-pollution equipment to avoid further contamination of the atmosphere.

Alberto Herrera Calles, director of Section 74 of the Industrial Union of Mine, Metallurgical and Related Workers of the Republic of Mexico, said that emissions of gases, principally of arsenic, have caused cases of lung cancer to increase among the inhabitants of Torreon.

He added that the housing developments, Eduardo Guerra, Luis Echeverria, Panteones, Nueva Aurora and Vencedor, where more than 70,000 live, are covered with a dense cloud of smoke released by the Mat Penoles plant without any opposition from the health authorities.

On various occasions, he said, the Secretariat of Health and Assistance were asked to force this plant to install antipollution equipment. Nevertheless, the emissions of poisonous gases continue.

On the other hand, the director of Ecological Affairs of the government of the state of Veracruz, Javier Juarez Sanchez explained to the journalist, Jose Luis Hernandez, that the pollution levels in Coatcoalcos, Minatitlan and Poza Rica are very high and as a result the plants of the region were requested to install antipollution equipment.

He added that the increase in the number of vehicles in those cities also constituted a serious problem, since their emissions represent a danger for the inhabitants of that region.

He emphasized, therefore, that it is necessary for the health authorities to redouble their vigilance so as not to permit industries to operate without antipollution equipment.

Extinction of Pelicans in BCN [Baja California Norte]

The contamination of the northern coast of Baja, California, has almost caused the extinction of pelicans in that area, indicated Humberto Zamora Rosero, advisor in environmental contamination to 20 fishing companies.

He explained to journalist Javier Cruz that over-exploitation of the seas and environmental contamination are elements which have caused the catch in the area to decrease.

He added that the plants in the region and of San Diego, California, empty chemical wastes into the sea which has caused the death of hundreds of fish and of other marine life.

96/5

OSO: 5000/2082

EFFECTS OF VOLCANO DIMINISHING

FL131900 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1636 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Apr (NOTIMEX)--The Secretariat of Human Settlements and Public Works (SAHOP) has reported that the area affected by the eruption of the "Chichonal" volcano is coming out of the critical stage. The SAHOP said that air and ground visibility improved to a large extent as a result of rain in Chiapas and Tabasco in recent days which has made the reopening of airports and resumption of traffic along the Escopetazo-Pichucalco Highway possible. Forty thousand cubic meters of ashes had settled on the highway.

The head of the SAHOP center in Chiapas, Manuel Aguirre Bravo, said that the work to unclog sewers had begun in the towns of Tapilula, Ixhuatan, Solusuchiapa and Rayon.

He added that only the Chapultenango-Pichucalco Road is closed to traffic. Volcanic dust and high temperatures have prevented work there.

The airports of Villahermosa, Ciudad Del Carmen, Minatitlan, Tapachula, Veracruz and Campeche resumed operations and planes can now land and take off there.

Aguirre Bravo said that the problems caused by the volcano have eased because the ash rain has stopped although there are still problems with water supplies in northern Chiapas. Supply lines are working at 50 percent capacity because of ash obstruction.

For his part, National Defense Secretary Gen Felix Galvan Lopez asserted that the situation is back to normal around the military cordon established by the army. The army is guarding a 10-kilometer area around the sides of the volcano where 11 towns are located so that residents will not be endangered.

Volcanologists studying the area say it might erupt again, Galvan Lopez said. He added that for the time being nearly 6,000 Chiapas residents will not be able to return to their towns near the volcano.

Meanwhile, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources [SARH] reported that "Chichonal" has caused big losses but that the exact amount cannot be determined for the moment. Partial losses include 4,000 hectares of bananas as well as 500 hectares of sugarcane and cacao; additionally, 2,000 heads of cattle are being slaughtered each day on an accelerated basis and 40,000 are being transferred elsewhere in the 62 municipalities affected in Chiapas.

The SARH's relief work, which includes the transfer of cattle to available pastures and the application of a credit of over 200 million pesos from Banrural to be used in buying cattle feed, is being coordinated with other federal agencies. The Institute of Social Security and Services for Government Workers (ISSSTE) is continuing to send food, medicine and clothing to the victims in southeast Mexico.

000 7/2100

EROSION THREATENS SINAI PENINSULA

Cairo T. E EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 4 Apr 82 p 2

[Text] A leading environmentalist yesterday warned against the continuing erosion of coral reefs surrounding Sinai and said its destruction would lead to water infiltration to the peninsula itself and its possible disappearance.

The President of the Egyptian Society for Land Life Conservation Dr Abdul Moneim Maher, said there were parts of many of the reefs, mainly the outer reefs, where a considerable erosion of the reef and destruction of the coral has been caused by sea water and other factors.

"Such erosion if allowed to continue, will cause considerable damage to the sea-life in the area and will pose a great danger to the peninsula itself," he added.

Speaking at the opening of the training course for the protection of wild life in Sinai Dr Maher called on intensifying research work on the ways to protect Sinai coasts and deal with its environmental problems.

The course is organised by the Unesco in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Scientific Research and Technology Academy and the Arab Office for Youth and Environment. It is being attended by the youth from the Red Sea and Northern and Southern Sinai Governorates and many researchers from Egyptian universities.

The Minister of State for Agriculture, Dr Yusef Wali said that his Ministry was ready to extend all help to the youth who wish to work in protecting the wild life in Sinai.

On the Peninsula, there are large numbers of rare animals, birds and plants hardly existent in other places. This needs intensified effort to protect them he added.

He said that Egypt has established an organisation for the conservation of wild-life in the country and issued the necessary decisions and rules protecting the unique birds, animals and plants from extinction.

The President of the Higher Council for Youth and Sports, Dr Abdul Hamid Hassan, said that \$100,000 has been assigned to reestablish and re-equip the youth hostel Egypt recently restored from Israel.

He stressed the importance of the youth participation in the efforts of wildlife protection and called on the world youth to visit Sinai to get acquainted with Egypt's wealth of wildlife.

The President of the Arab Office for youth and Environment said that the Office, since its founding four years ago, has greatly concerned with solving the environmental problems in Egypt through promoting environmental awareness among the youth.

During the 5-days training course, participants will attend lectures and see films and slides on the wildlife in Sinai. Visits will also be organised to the wildlife and marinelife settlements there.

The course will also deal with the economic and touristic prospects of the natural settlements intended to be established to protect the wildlife in the peninsula.--
MEN.

CSO: 5006/5513

TO COPE WITH DROUGHT CATTLE FARMERS URGED TO SELL

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 18 Mar 82 p 2

[Text]

FARMERS are being encouraged to sell cattle in view of the drought conditions experienced over much of the country.

This was said by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr W. Meswale in Parliament, when he was replying to a question from the MP for Francistown, Mr P. K. Balopi.

Mr Balopi had asked the Minister to say what assurances have been given to the Northern farmers during the recent cattle marketing campaign stated in the Minister's answer to Mr E. M. K. Kgabo's question No. 133 dated 4th March, 1982 that their cattle which they have been encouraged to sell to Botswana Meat Commission as a measure against the impending drought will all be accepted in view of Botswana Meat Commission's limited daily killing capacity, the normal problems of securing adequate railway trucks will not be encountered, other markets besides the EEC will indeed consume all our beef products bearing in mind that some areas in the north have just been disease-free, and what other markets will our export go to.

It is our experience that many

farmers delay too long in applying for quotas and, therefore, we are trying to ensure that information is made available to everyone, replied the Minister.

"However, we cannot give any assurance that all cattle offered will be accepted, as the Botswana Meat Commission's capacity to kill has a limit and the rail system also has its limit."

In particular Botswana Meat Commission's killing capacity is limited, during the non-EEC period by its refrigeration space, as all beef has to be frozen. For these reasons BMC can only process 1100 to 1200 cattle a day during the March/May period, he added.

"Since we started killing from the North, at the beginning of the month, Zimbabwe Railways have been extremely helpful and cattle trucks have been made available daily."

"We expect that some 85% of our beef this year will go to the EEC and South Africa. Other markets such as Mozambique, and Hong Kong are available for the balance. Thus we do not expect to have problems in finding markets," the Minister added.

CSO: 5000/5724

WATER SHORTAGE, DROUGHT CONDITIONS CAUSE PROBLEMS

Consumers Fail To Save

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 5 Apr 82 p 1

[Text] THE Town Clerk of Windhoek, Mr Attie Arnold, has expressed his disappointment with the latest readings for water consumption.

According to the readings for March the consumers of Windhoek have, as in January and February, failed to achieve the target saving of 30 percent. The saving was only 14,1 percent.

Mr Arnold said in a press release issued in Windhoek that the failure of consumers in Windhoek to support the saving campaign was a matter of grave concern to the City Council. The dams supplying water to Windhoek had four million cubic metres of water less on April 1,

1982 than on the corresponding date in 1981. The very low saving of 14,1 percent made it necessary to extract a record quantity of almost 500,000 cubic metres of water from the boreholes which would be the main source of supply, should the dams dry up.

Mr Arnold said he trusted that the consumers would timeously realise the gravity of the situation and give their full support to the saving campaign and thus prevent the imposition of more stringent measures.

Drought on Southern Farms

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 5 Apr 82 p 3

[Text] A NEW R30,5m drought aid fund has been launched by the Central Government in Namibia.

This was announced by Mr Hans Von Hase, Member of the Ministers' Council charged with Agriculture.

He did so in Windhoek at the weekend.

The worst effects of the drought were still experienced in the south with the Swakara industry critically affected. Mr Von Hase said.

"Disaster conditions" prevail on "hundreds of farms in the south", according to Mr Von Hase, where no rain had fallen the entire year.

Part of the north and west of the Territory were also still affected.

The relief fund, which will be administered by second-tier authorities to all population groups, is goal directed in several aspects, Mr Von Hase pointed out.

It includes a R750 000 subsidy to the Land Bank

with which to deflate the interest rate charged to drought-stricken farmers for aid.

Sheep farmers have had R16,5 m of the total earmarked for them and only those farmers who have 80 percent or less of their stock capacity still on the land, will qualify for aid.

A further R4,25m will be paid in pelt subsidies.

The scale of market subsidisation favours higher quality pelts.

Cattle farmers in drought-affected areas will get a total of R20 per head a year on feeding and

marketing subsidies.

In these cases a condition for aid is that not more than 60 percent of the farm's stock carrying capacity is utilised, in order for a farmer to qualify for aid.

Subsidies will also be granted to stimulate the export of beef.

These are 50 cents per kg for tinned meat to SA and overseas, and 50 cents for beef cuts overseas.

Addressing the same news conference, Mr Jan-nie De Wet, MEC for Agriculture in the White

Admission into each of
the various districts is
while farmers will from
work by farmers months in
order to good life that
people that have already
occurred.

This is the first district
which is some when on
some days the farmers on
Naima and is not limited
to the population
groups.

— 41 — (1911, 1912)

BENUE GOVERNOR REQUESTS URGENT AID ON EROSION

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 20 Mar 82 p 1

[Article by Mohammed Salau]

[Text]

GOVERNOR Aper Aku of Benue State has appealed to the Federal Government to study urgently the report submitted to it by Federal Department of Agriculture and Land Resources on the dangerous soil erosion in Ankpa town and take urgent steps to arrest the erosion before it causes any more havoc to the entire population of the area.

Making the appeal while exchanging views with Dr Dauda Gowon of the Federal Department of Agriculture and Land Resources in his office at Makurdi, Governor Aku stressed the need to study the report on time and award the contract to combat the erosion and resettle its victims.

The governor expressed delight at the prompt submission of the report to the Federal Government and remarked that such conduct would gladden the hearts of the victims of the erosion and strengthen their sense of belonging to this great country.

Earlier, Dr Gowon who was leading a team from his ministry to the eroded area disclosed that a compiled report on the incident had been submitted by his department to the Federal Government for action.

He said that the Federal Government had expressed grave concern on the erosion menace and also promised to do everything possible to stop it.

KANO STATE IDENTIFIES 150 FACTORIES AS POLLUTERS

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 22 Mar 82 p 16

[Article by Abdulhamid Babatunde]

[Text] **ABOUT 150 factories in Kano have been identified as the major contributors to industrial pollution in the state capital.**

Announcing this at an interview in Kano, the Kano State Commissioner for Housing and Environment, Alhaji Aminu Yusuf declared that his ministry was now working on drastic measures to be taken against such firms.

The commissioner said his ministry was now studying the Presidential Bill on Environmental Pollution submitted to the National Assembly with a view of getting some ideas on how to tackle the problem of industrial pollution in the state.

He pointed out that the effects of the pollution were bad but had not reached the stage of affecting water supply in the state adding that the absence of any legal backing had prevented the state government from taking necessary action against environmental pollution.

The commissioner, however, said that representatives of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) would soon be in contact with his ministry for talks on the problem of pollution.

Alhaji Aminu also revealed that his ministry has embarked on a programme for the provision of public toilets and bathrooms to cater for the problems of the ordinary people who lacked access to such facilities.

The programme would involve the construction of 30 units of the public toilet in various parts

of Kano municipality while the 20 existing ones would be re-activated so that about 50 bathroom-toilet units would be ready for use by the end of the year.

He said the maintenance of the units would be done by private organisations who would ensure a daily clean-up of the facilities while the state government would ensure the provision of security, water and electricity.

'TANZANIANS REDUCING ENVIRONMENT'S LIFE-SUPPORTING CAPACITY'

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 29 Mar 82 p 3

(Text)

TANZANIANS have been warned that they should change their attitudes and actions on environment, failure of which would inevitably result in environmental disaster.

Sounding the warning, the Chief Park Warden of the Tanzania National Parks, Ndugu David Babu, observed that Tanzanians were progressively reducing their environment's life-supporting capacity at a time when rising human numbers and consumption were making heavy demands on it.

Ndugu Babu, who was opening a three-day environmental workshop at the Danish Volunteer Centre in Arumeru District, told twelve patrons of the Malihai Club of Tanzania, that potential watershed forests have been devastated in the Usambara Mountains.

This is the first meeting of the Club since it was formed early this year.

He said, poor farming methods have resulted in serious soil-erosion in Dodoma and Singida regions while poaching had rendered some animal species almost extinct in some areas.

Stressing the need for environmental education,

Ndugu Babu said that conservation depended on people's support which could only, be achieved through their being educated on it.

"To achieve this goal, the objectives for living resources conservation have first to be made clear to the people," he said.

The Chief Park Warden said that the main objective of the National Parks was conservation and not tourism or foreign-exchange earning as many people were made to believe.

The parks, he said, were created to maintain essential ecological processes, preserve genetic diversity and ensure the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems.

The workshop which draws environmental experts from twelve secondary schools and colleges and various other institutions has been funded by the Washington-based African Wildlife Leadership Foundation and the Nairobi-based East African Wildlife Society.

The Club aims at inspiring Tanzanians, especially the young generation, on the importance of environmental conservation. It is run under the guidance of the Tanzania National Parks.

KALOMO CATTLE THREATENED WITH STARVATION

Lusaka DAILY MAIL in English 1 Apr 82 p 5

[Text] The cattle in Kalomo are threatened with hunger due to lack of grazing pasture and water.

Kalomo governor, Mr Nathan Siafwa, confirmed yesterday that cattle were in danger because of a severe drought in the area.

Mr Siafwa said he had been contacting people in the field to determine the needs of cattle owners.

The governor, who is also Member of Parliament for the area, named Simwatachela, Sipatunyana and Moomba as the areas most affected by the drought.

Mr Siafwa also said he was awaiting reports from ward officials who had been sent to drought-stricken areas before he could give a full report on the needs of people in the area.

Meanwhile, Southern Province political secretary, Mr Jospeh Simuyandi has appealed to villagers in Kalomo not to take their animals to Gwembe in search of water as they would expose them to tse-tse-fly.

Mr Simuyandi was told that some villagers planned to take their cattle to the shores of Lake Kariba for water and grass.

And Livingstone governor, Mr Mukazo Vunda is touring farms to determine the extent of damage caused by the dry spell.

Mr Vunda's programme takes in 87 farms and several chiefs' areas.

CSO: 4700/1052

THE MUNGWEZI IRRIGATION SCHEMES

in: *The Herald* in English 29 Mar 82 p 4

soil erosion in Victoria Province is holding up the development of two new irrigation schemes and the proper functioning of existing ones, a senior Agritex official has said.

The acting provincial agricultural and extension officer for Victoria, Mr O. J. Zishiri, told a regional conservation meeting in Fort Victoria last week that the rate of erosion was reaching astronomical levels.

"The state of mechanical conservation works in our densely populated communal areas is creating major problems. In some areas between 60 and 70 percent of arable lands have no adequate conservation works at all. These lands generally have a severe loss of the top soil and, as a result, a poor crop growth."

The erosion in grazing areas was leading to gully formation and, in turn, to siltation of rivers and dams. The future of potentially viable irrigation schemes was being threatened as a result.

Plans to build two dams on the Mungwezi and Roswa rivers, in Ndanga and Bikita districts respectively, had been turned down by the Natural

Resources Board because of the severe erosion taking place in the catchment areas of the proposed dams.

"Construction will not be allowed to start until the catchment has been reclaimed. To reclaim the Mungwezi catchment, it has been estimated that it will cost in the region of \$765 000, which includes the cost of resettling 153 families.

"If the dams are built and the catchment not reclaimed, it is estimated by the Ministry of Water Resources and Development that the dams will fill with silt within 10 years," said Mr Zishiri.

Last year it had become necessary to breach the wall of the Mapanzure weir, which had completely silted up and no water was available for irrigation.

Although \$100 000 was spent on protecting the catchment of Lake Manji-renji in 1965, none of the works built still remained and the dam was silting more quickly than before.

Funds allocated to the province had to be spent on repairing existing damage caused by erosion, instead of on new development.

FORESTRY COMMISSION OFFERS MORE GRAZING

By THE PRESS In Harare 24 Mar 82 p 4

THE Forestry Commission has offered some of its forests in Matabeleland to be used for grazing by communal land livestock owners.

This was announced here yesterday by the Matabeleland South Provincial Agricultural and Extension Officer, Mr D. Parsons who is also chairman of a newly formed sub-committee of the Ministry of Agriculture's Livestock and Drought Committee.

Mr Parsons said the sub-committee had held its first meeting on Monday and discussed the lack of water in the forests.

He said the committee would investigate the water situation in the forests and then ask the Government for boreholes to be drilled.

The Provincial Agricultural and Extension Officer for Matabeleland North, Mr P. C. Paradzwa, said the areas offered were the Chesa Forest and the Inyanga-Masumbesi, Gwini, Gwampa and Lake Alice forest areas.

He said approaches would be made to the Government for whatever help it could give in providing more grazing land adjacent to the communal areas.

Mr Parsons said the worst drought-stricken parts of his province were those south of Gwanda, south of Plumtree and southern Matobo.

Mr Paradzwa said Matabeleland North was hit hardest in the west of Tlootlo, the whole of the Wankie district and Ntshinduna - Fingo local sector.

"Apart from the drought, one other factor that worsens the situation is overstocking by communal land people," he said.

"There is no way out of this terrible situation except to sell."

An Agritex publications officer, Mr P. B. S. Chiyowa, said he would be announcing over the radio where and when the Cold Storage Commission would hold sales.

Emphasising that cattle should be sold before they lost weight because of the drought, the spokesman said: "The average price we have been paying to communal land owners has been about \$160.

"But this will go down as the quality of livestock deteriorates."

BRIEFS

DROUGHT PREDICTED--Zimbabwe will probably face another drought next year, the Minister of Agriculture, Senator Denis Norman, has said. Speaking on last night's ZTV programme, The Nation, Senator Norman said: "The chances are fairly high that we will have another drought next year." Apart from the need to improve irrigation to meet the expected drought, the minister said: "I am considering a possibility for those who cannot repay their loans this year. We may have to look at another system to see that they are in a position to grow another crop." Asked if consumer prices for meat would go up once the price freeze was lifted, he said: "This is not automatic." He said there would be a surplus of meat for "the next few months" as so many cattle were being slaughtered. Recommendations for producer prices had been given to the Government and it should not be "too long" before the prices were announced. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 5 Apr 82 p 1]

CSO: 5000/5723

POLLUTION FROM CADMIUM MINING, OIL CAUSING CONCERN

Godthaab GRØNLANDSPOSTEN in Danish 17 Mar 82 p 22

[Article by Jens Dahl and Peter Bach]

Text: It has often been discussed whether the development of a modern industrial society in Greenland will be in harmony with the Greenland society of fishermen, whalers, and sealers. These problems will be elucidated in two articles.

In this article, we shall elucidate the subject by means of two concrete examples in order, in the subsequent article, to describe in more general terms the causes of the conflicts and what may be done, if anything, to prevent them from arising.

The purpose of the articles is primarily to give rise to a more fundamental discussion and not so much to criticize the course of the two concrete cases.

The Oil Spill from the Potomac

As mentioned in GRØNLANDSPOSTEN No. 39 in 1981, a decision has been arrived at on the question of the Potomac, a tanker belonging to the U.S. Navy, which in August of 1977 after its collision with a fairly small iceberg in the Melville Sound lost 200 tons of oil.

After the accident, a number of oil-polluted seals were caught in the Melville Bay, and a number of polluted seal skins have been analyzed by the Greenland Fisheries Research Institute. Here, the quantities of the catches in the area prior to 1977 have also been examined with a view to evaluating the pollution. Finally, in the catches after the oil spill. On the basis of statements from the Assistant Public Prosecutor, the Junior Counsel to the Treasury, the Minister of the case has been that the Ministry for Greenland Affairs and the Greenland Landsting have had to give up the case because the Junior Counsel to the Treasury found that it would not be possible to obtain compensation from the U.S. authorities.

Despite the fact that the sealers have actually caught oil-polluted seals, there is, in the opinion of the Junior Counsel to the Treasury, hardly any basis for compensation because, on a collective basis, no clear declines in the catches in the area have been ascertained. The conclusion to this must be that even if the

...able to obtain
...

...from the Potomac
...Treasury, prove that they
...they have caught so few oil-

...the sealers caught seals
...the Potomac weakens the possi-
...as a result of the

...damages in connection with
...does not, however, apply to warships
...non-commercial purposes. In other words,
...convention, to which the United States,
...reason, the Junior Counsel to the Treasury
...be brought before U.S. courts. Such
...sealers.

...to the Treasury were made within the
...evaluation of the concrete issue
...rise to a number of quite
...to do with the extent of
...etc. The Junior Counsel to the
...on the question of compensation. And

...there has been much de-
...the authorities demanded that
...from heavy alloys (cad-
...The background to this
...had been ascertained

...such as a dam across the
...the mining were discharged.
...so costly (approximately 100
...down the mine if they
...

...process changes with a view
...the official reports, the results

...the fiord have been

... performed by the Greenland Fisheries Research Institute and the Danish Geological Research Institute show that the increase in the level of pollution has been stopped;

... the Joint Council on Mineral Raw Materials in Greenland has declared itself satisfied and has dropped its demand for constructional changes. This support, among other things, against the background of statements made by experts that the present level of pollution is not considered dangerous to the health of the population in the area.

The course of events is in itself interesting but holds nothing new. The reason why we now call attention to this example is that the EC is, at present, drafting directives concerning limit values for cadmium discharged in the water environment.

It appears from these draft directives that the cadmium pollution from the mine at Marmorilik is 13 times greater than the limit value which, according to the draft directives, must be complied with in 1983, and 22 times the limit value to be complied with in 1995.

Underlying the EC draft directives concerning cadmium is the need to limit as far as possible cadmium pollution of the environment since cadmium is very dangerous to human beings and animals, one of the reasons for this being that cadmium, once introduced into the environment, will almost invariably remain there forever because it cannot be broken down. Which, over a number of years, means that there will be an accumulation of cadmium through the entire food chain.

The EC directives on limit values are based on what is technically possible to achieve.

The Ministry for Greenland Affairs and the Raw Materials Administration were very concerned about the draft directives as they would involve much more stringent conditions for Greenex. It was feared that the old threat from Greenex to close the mine could be revived, which was regarded as disastrous as the mining company has finally started paying concession fees.

In the end, however, the end of the matter has been that the home rule government has supported the proposal that Denmark announce to the EC that the directives will not apply to Greenland.

Even if the directives will thus hardly come to apply to Greenland, the fact that the cadmium pollution from the mine at Marmorilik is considerably greater than the rate of pollution considered safe by the EC experts, cannot be disregarded.

The Ministry for Greenland Affairs feels pressured to have Greenland exempted from the stipulations of the directives in order not to annoy Greenex. But what about the Greenland population living in the area, and what about the long-term consequences to the fishing and sealing industries in the area? As concessions, legislation and the thinking are today, one feels compelled to give

...the real-
...in concessions, and
...this situation in
...the interests of the
...be safeguarded in
...be.

FISH PRODUCTION RISES DESPITE GROWING POLLUTION

Istanbul CUMHURİYET in Turkish 7 Feb 82 p 7

[Report by Sukran Ketenci]

[Text] Scientists report that the recent increase in fish production, which has been cause for joy among low-income groups, is not a fortunate phenomenon and that it is a typical sign of sea pollution and a dangerous omen.

Scientists stress that the number of fish species in the Marmara Sea has been reduced as a result of a rapid and dangerous pollution of that body of water and that the number of species which can survive in polluted water has increased. The scientists state that unless preventive measures are taken the Marmara Sea will be polluted even more so that even the resistant species will not survive.

Scientific studies show that the Marmara Sea is undergoing a rapid process of pollution at all its gulfs in a manner similar to what happened at the Golden Horn and the Gulf of Izmit. Warning that unless urgent measures are taken the Marmara Sea will be transformed into a foul-smelling ugly-looking dead body of water similar to the Golden Horn, the scientists report that their studies show that the Marmara Sea is rapidly losing oxygen, with parallel drops in the number of indigenous fish species and a rise in the amounts of harmful residues.

Noting that the rise in fish production in recent years is deceptive and, actually, a sign of danger, scientists report that in the last 10 years the Marmara Sea--which accounts for 25 percent of Turkey's fish production--has lost half the number of fish species it supported as a result of pollution and a drop in the oxygen level in the water.

Dr Friton Curi, Director of the Institute of Environmental Problems at the Bogazici University, explained the results of various studies as follows:

"The pollution of the Marmara Sea is rapidly upsetting the natural balance. Although fish production in the Marmara Sea is increasing there is a drop in the number of fish species living in the sea. This is a typical sign of sea pollution. The oxygen level in the Marmara Sea is dropping. Fish like red mullet, lobsters, gurnard and grey mullet are going down in number. Shark-type fish, such as short-finned tuna and large tuna, which are resistant to pollution are increasing in number. If urgent measures are not taken and the pollution process is not halted, soon even these fish will not have an environment to live in."

Dr Curi notes that there is a continuing downward trend in the oxygen level in the Marmara Sea as a result of the decomposition of organic waste dumped into the sea. Dr Curi says that "the rise in the number of industries that dump their waste directly into the sea despite the preventive laws-which do not work --and the rise of the Marmara region population which dumps unprocessed liquid waste into the sea" have significantly contributed to this trend. Dr Curi says: "This rapid pollution will deteriorate when the sewage systems of some cities are completed. Sewage projects in Istanbul, Izmit, Gemlik and Erdek are being planned independent of each other. However, all these projects will dump their waste in the same sea. The Marmara Sea, which is already overpolluted, will continue to be polluted at a more rapid pace."

The scientific indicator of pollution in the Marmara Sea is the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water. The changes in this indicator over the years, for the same months and equal temperatures, is as follows: In 1964, the dissolved oxygen level stood at 13.2 milligrams per liter at a depth of 100 meters and a temperature of 8.3 degrees centigrade; in 1978 this level dropped to 7.05 milligrams per liter for the same depth and temperature. In 1964, the dissolved oxygen level stood at 4.32 milligrams per liter at a depth of 100 meters and a temperature of 15.2 degrees centigrade; in 1978 this level dropped to 2.91 milligrams per liter for the same depth and temperature. All measurements taken at different depths and temperatures show that there has been a drop in the oxygen level over the years.

Fewer Fish Species

Scientific studies show that there is a correlation between the pollution of the Marmara Sea and the drop in the number of fish species in the sea.

The fish harvest processed by the Istanbul Fish Market rose from 8,042.9 metric tons in 1970 to 13,522.6 metric tons in 1977. However, the number of fish species processed by the Market dropped from 14 in 1970 to 7 in 1977.

Another study reports dangerously high levels of mercury in mussels harvested from the Marmara Sea. The mercury levels were found to be 3.96 milligrams per kilogram in Cinarlidere, Izmit, 0.30 milligrams per kilogram in Golcuk and 0.35 milligrams per kilogram in Gemlik.

A directive prepared by Dr Curi in connection with measures to be taken to prevent the pollution of the Marmara Sea says in brief:

"No operating permits must be given to new industrial plants around the Marmara region before waste processing plants are built."

"The sewage systems of municipalities on the shores of the Marmara Sea must be planned having in mind that they will all dump their waste into the same body of water."

"A central organization must be set up to coordinate efforts to prevent the pollution of the Marmara Sea. No waste must be dumped into the Marmara Sea without the approval of this organization."

"A control and penalty system must be instituted to stop ships transiting through or docking in the Marmara Sea from dumping their bilge oil into the sea."

9588

CSO: 5000/5316

BACTERIA SAID TO REDUCE SULPHUR CONTENT OF LIGNITE

Adana YENI ADANA in Turkish 17 Feb 82 p 3

[Text] Ankara (AKAJANS)--Experiments carried out in the Middle East Technical University [METU] Engineering Department with the aim of reducing air pollution, reduced the sulphur content of lignite coal by 60-70 percent using a type of bacteria.

Dr Celal F. Gokcay, of the METU Environmental Engineering Department, who carried out the experiments, and other members of the teaching staff said: "As residents of Ankara, where air pollution every now and then rises to 4-5 times the world standards and where the main pollutant is sulphur dioxide, resulting from the burning of fuels such as coal and fuel oil, which contain high amounts of sulphur, it has become imperative that efforts be carried out to reduce air pollution by decreasing the sulphur content of lignite coal which is being used increasingly in recent years."

The members of the teaching staff noted that the methods developed for purifying the sulphur from coal were quite expensive and difficult to apply and they reported that as a result of laboratory experiments the total sulphur content of lignite coal had been reduced by an average of 60-70 percent with the help of a type of bacteria called "Thiobacillus." They reported that this method could be successfully applied to low quality lignite coal and reported that these experiments had shown for the first time that Thermophile bacteria, which live in high temperatures in particular, could be used effectively to remove sulphur.

Members of the METU environmental engineering teaching faculty indicated that this method was cheaper and simpler than other methods. They said: "In the industrial application of the method, the mixture of bacteria and lignite should be kept for 15-20 days under controlled conditions in aerated tanks similar to waste water purification tanks, of which there are examples in our country."

CSO: 5000/5324

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

APRIL 30, 1982